



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS

Alabama's State Advisory Council Progress Report

Reporting Period:
September 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011

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2011

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I. Major activities and accomplishments during this reporting period

- Lori Frazier, Project Manager for the *Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)* was hired in the first quarter and began employment September 1, 2010 at the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs.
- Alabama's Governor established the *ECAC* on October 25, 2010, through Executive Order #53. The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs who serves in the Governor's cabinet, was appointed as the Chair to provide administrative oversight of the Council.
- Forty-three (43) experts in early childhood education and care were appointed by the Governor to serve on the Council, representing statewide diversity.
- Website development for *ECAC* occurred in QTR 1. The Alabama Department of Children's Affairs developed a webpage to reflect information and activities of the state's *ECAC*. Website updates are on-going.
- *ECAC* meetings were held quarterly.
 - *Meeting Dates-*
 - QTR 1- October 25, 2010
 - QTR 2- January 24, 2011
- The *ECAC* Mission Statement was developed.
 - *Building a comprehensive early childhood collaboration of systems by effectively integrating efforts and resources to improve the lives of Alabama's children and families*
- *A Guide to Understanding the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council* was developed by the *ECAC* Project Manager through the input of the Special Projects Committee. The guide was published and distributed to State legislators, stakeholders, partners, and was included in "transition packets".
- Transition packets were developed and distributed to educate the new administration of the *ECAC*'s creation and purpose. Recipients of the packets included the new Governor, Pro Tem of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Lieutenant Governor, Governor's cabinet members, and other staff.
- *ECAC* Project Manager attended the SAC National Conference in Washington, D.C. April 25-28, 2011.

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- Five (5) sub-committees were established and Committee Chairs were selected in QTR 1.
 - *Longitudinal Data Committee-*
 - *Goal #1:* Develop policy recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the state
 - *Goal #2:* Establish a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the state
 - *Longitudinal Data Committee meetings were held this reporting period:*
 - ✓ December 10, 2010
 - ✓ February 11, 2011
 - ✓ March 25, 2011
 - ✓ April 28, 2011
 - ✓ May 26, 2011
 - Developed work plan to facilitate Goals #1 and Goals #2
 - *Assessment and Analysis Committee-*
 - *Goal #1:* Conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry including the availability of high-quality pre-k services for low-income children in the State
 - *Goal #2:* Assess the capacity *and* effectiveness of 2- and 4- year public *and* private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, *including* the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or pre-k program
 - *Assessment and Analysis Committee meetings were held this reporting period:*
 - ✓ March 22, 2011

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✓ May 10, 2011

- Developed work plan to facilitate Goals #1 and Goals #2
 - Contracted with nonprofit stakeholder to conduct needs assessment. Alabama Department of Children's Affairs contracted with Alabama Partnership for Children to conduct needs assessment.
- *Outreach, Recruitment, and Sustainability Committee-*
- *Goal #1:* Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among federally funded and state funded programs and agencies responsible for child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services
 - *Goal #2:* Develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in Early Childhood Education and care programs, with particular emphasis on outreach to underrepresented and special populations. (This includes existing federal, state, and local child care programs)
 - *Outreach, Recruitment, and Sustainability Committee meetings were held this reporting period:*
 - ✓ May 17, 2011
 - Developed work plan to facilitate Goals #1 and Goals #2
- *Program and Professional Development Committee-*
- *Goal #1:* Establish a statewide professional development system and career ladder for early childhood educators
 - *Goal #2:* Establish, enhance, improve high quality State early learning standards
 - *Program and Professional Development Committee meetings were held this reporting period:*
 - ✓ January 5, 2011
 - ✓ March 9, 2011

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✓ April 15, 2011

- Developed work plan to facilitate Goals #1 and Goals #2
- *Special Projects Committee:*
 - *Goal #1: Develop* Alabama's comprehensive plan to establish a coordinated and responsive early childhood education and care system that advances ready children, families, services, schools, communities, and state.
 - *Goal #2: Implement* Alabama's official comprehensive plan to establish a coordinated and responsive early childhood education and care system that advances ready children, families, services, schools, communities and state.
 - *Goal #3: Conduct* an annual public hearing in the 4th quarter of Year 1, 2, and 3.
 - *Special Projects Committee meetings were held this reporting period:*
 - ✓ January 12, 2011
 - ✓ March 23, 2011
 - ✓ April 12, 2011
- Developed work plan to facilitate Goals #1, Goal #2, and Goal #3.

II. Problems

- No problems occurred during this reporting period.

III. Significant Findings and Events

- No significant findings or events occurred during this reporting period.

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IV. Dissemination Activities

- Website development for *ECAC* occurred in QTR 1. The Alabama Department of Children's Affairs developed a webpage to reflect information and activities of the state's *ECAC*.
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- Transition packets were developed and distributed to educate the new administration of the *ECAC*'s creation and purpose. Recipients of the packets included the new Governor, Pro Tem of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Lieutenant Governor, Governor's cabinet members, and other staff.

V. Other Activities

- No other activities to report during this period.

VI. Activities planned for next reporting period

- The annual *ECAC* Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 10AM-12PM at the State Capitol Auditorium located at 600 Dexter Avenue Montgomery, AL .
- The *ECAC* quarterly meeting will be held Monday, January 23, 10AM -2PM.
- The *ECAC* Annual Report will be developed, published, and distributed to Governor, Pro Tem of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Lieutenant Governor, Governor's cabinet members, stakeholders, partners, and others.
- Committees will continue to meet and move forward in work plan implementation to meet goals.